# TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

# (Republique Centrafricaine)

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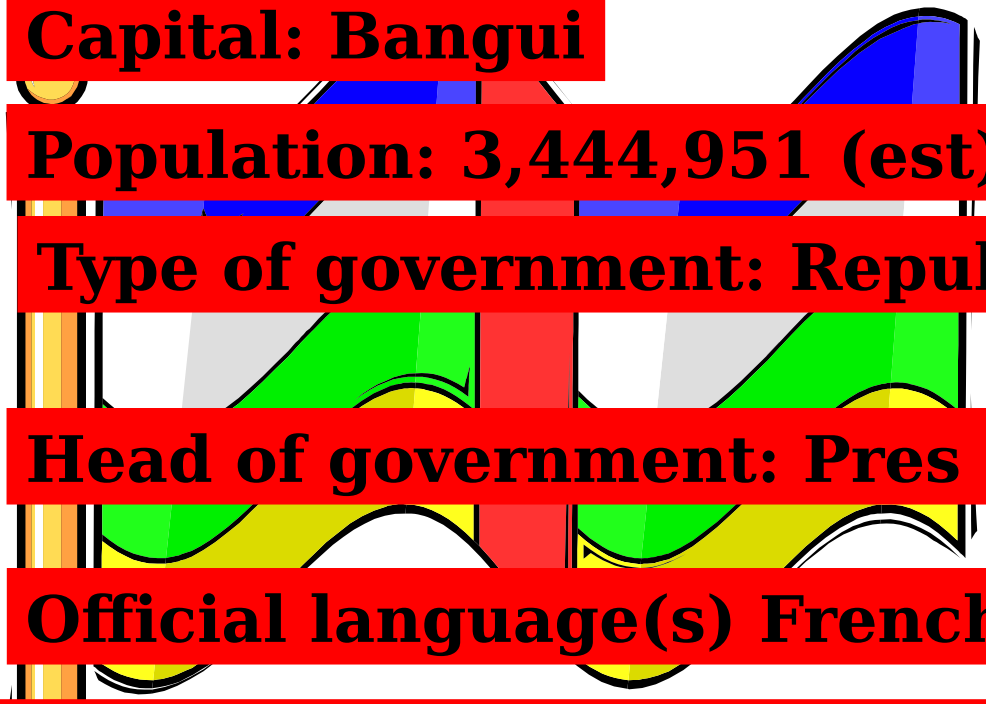
# BACKGROUND

**Full Name: State of Israel**

**Capital: Bangui**



**Population: 3,444,951 (est)**

**Type of government: Republic**

**Head of government: Pres Felix Patasse**

**Official language(s) French, Sango**

**Economy: Agricultural-based**

**Religions: Protestant (25%), Catholic (25%), Indigenous (24%), Islam (15%)**

# TRAVEL

**Travel restrictions: None.**

## INFORMATION

**International Airport: Bangui**

**Flights from Frankfurt: None**

**Other methods of arrival: Road/Rail**

**U.S. Embassy address: Avenue David Dacko, B.P. 924, Bangui**
**Tel: 236-610200/612578 FAX: 236-614494**

**Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.**

**Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.**

**Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.**

**Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.**

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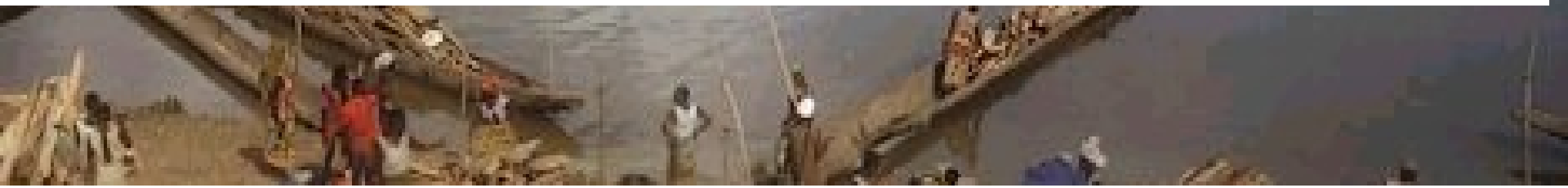
# ENTRY/EXIT

**Travel Necessities: For official travel, no-fee passports and visas are required. Passports and visas are required for all travelers. Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice, but do require identification credentials. US citizens are urged to register their presence with the consular section of the Amembassy in Bangui upon arrival in the country.**

**Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.**



**Duty-free entry for personal effects: cameras (one still and one movie) with two rolls of film each, jewelry (limited to 1.1 pounds), portable typewriter, electric razor, record player and 20 records, field glasses, sport equipment, 250 cigars, 1,000**

# HELPFUL HINTS

**Special restrictions: The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens to defer travel to the Central African Republic due to the level of crime and highway banditry, especially in the northern and eastern region of the country. Due to its inability to provide security arrangements for foreigners traveling outside Bangui, in October 1997, the CAR government officially closed all points of entry for tourists into the CAR, except for the airport in Bangui. Firearms must be licensed. Taking photographs of police or military installations, as well as government buildings, is prohibited. These official buildings and installations are often unmarked. Unauthorized photography may result in seizure of photographic equipment by Central African Republic authorities. Police or other government authorities can provide information and grant permission for photographing a particular subject or location. Facilities for tourism are limited. Due to the risk of armed attacks on motorists in the central and northern region, overland travel in these areas, without a military escort, should be avoided. Most remote areas in the country that are**

# MONEY

**Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on foreign currency imports.**

**Rate: Approximate: 500 CFA francs for $1.**

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# HEALTH

**Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, heat injuries and industrial pollution.**

**Availability of medical services: Poor.**

**Medical Insurance: May not apply in CAR. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.**

**Status of hospitals: Poor**

**Health Precautions: Yellow fever vaccination required for all travelers over one year of age.**

**Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine, and TD.**

# FORCE PROTECTION

**Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to CAR. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through**

**Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer**

**Boil water. Use canned or dried milk. Preferably wash, cook vegetables; wash and peel fruits. Eat at recommended places. Antimalarial drugs, including Fansidar and Aralen, should be taken prior to arrival because chloroquine-resistant malaria is present in the Central African Republic. Mosquito nets are recommended. Travel by road outside Bangui is dangerous due to armed bandits. Travel by car outside of Bangui at night is discouraged. Following three military mutinies in Bangui in 1996 and 1997, leading to violence and looting, international peacekeeping forces have been maintaining order in the city. Although no specific threats have been directed against U.S. citizens, U.S. citizens should avoid political rallies and street demonstrations and maintain security awareness at all times.**

# CRIME

**Criminal Activities: Street crime in downtown Bangui, while uncommon, does occur. Armed gangs operate in outlying residential areas, although police anti-crime efforts have somewhat reduced this problem. Armed highway robbery in rural areas is common, especially in the dry season from December until May. When a crime does occur, the victim may have to pay to send a vehicle to pick up police officers due to the shortage of police vehicles. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the consular section of the U.S. Embassy.**

**CAR is strict on: Drugs and firearms.**

Pygmy boy with hunting net, CAR

# WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

# CLOTHING

**Uniform restrictions: None**

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# This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

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